

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 9

Number 2 *Sisyphus Invents the Moon*

Article 58

Spring 5-1-1990

Requiem

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College of DuPage

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Recommended Citation

Brown, Pat (1990) "Requiem," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 9 : No. 2 , Article 58.

Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol9/iss2/58>

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REQUIEM

Pat Brown

At forty below, they drone
in a bleak breeze leading a
storm down from Manitoba—
phone wires go tight in this cold,
no slack left—and the pitch rises,
coming up with the wind, to a
wretched, impossible keen.
How long can they hold against the
wind's flint edge, before they
snap
and the free ends flap & flail at the
blizzard's whim, like the rent edges of
faded chance after that late-night
call saying you'd gone, at last?